

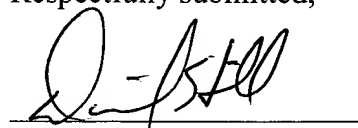
1 REMARKS

2 Applicant thanks the Examiner for finding allowable subject matter in Claims 2-3, 8-9,
3 12-34, 36 and 40-41 in the Office Action dated December 17, 2003. To expedite prosecution of
4 claims containing allowable subject matter, applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 13, 25
5 and 35 in accordance with the examiner's comments. In particular, independent Claim 1 has
6 been amended to incorporate the limitation from the allowable dependent Claim 2, and
7 independent Claim 35 has been amended to incorporate the limitation from the allowable
8 dependent Claim 36. In response to the Examiner's §112 rejections, applicant has amended
9 Claims 1, 3, 8, 13, 19, 25, 35 and 39 to correct informalities in accordance with the Examiner's
10 suggestions. Applicant thanks the Examiner for calling these issues to her attention.

11 In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that the present invention
12 represents a patentable contribution to the art and that the pending claims are in condition for
13 allowance. Early and favorable action is accordingly solicited.

14
15
16
17
18
19 Dated: March 17, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



David M. Hill
Reg. No. 46,170
WARD & OLIVO
708 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10017
(212) 697-6262